

"THE PRESS AND MORALITY."
Their Relations—Competition, Lack of
Courage and Inconsistency

Opportunities for Service Before the
Persons Engaged in Publication of
Newspapers and Periodicals—Powerful
Influences That Seek to Induce
Publishers From the Conservative
Ways of Strict Morality.

(Chester Lantern.)

It was not my own proposition that I should discuss "The Press and Morality" before this association, and I do not know what view of the subject was in the minds of those who selected it. Did they mean that I should tell all that I know about the press and all I know about morality separately? Then the task would not be so difficult. It is probable, however, that I am expected to say something about the press in its relation to morality, and I confess that I am perplexed to know how to start or what to say. However, as a loyal member of the association I shall endeavor to perform the duty assigned me.

But how the subject theme may gang
Let time and chance determine;
Perhaps it may turn out a sang,
Perhaps turn out a sermon.

To be safe, like the negro preacher you have doubtless heard of, I shall divide my subject into two heads—first, "de things what's in de text"—and, second, "de things what ain't"—and, while I do not as he did, propose to "wrestle wid de las' part fust," yet when you cannot see the connection between my remarks and the subject I beg you to consider then that I am discussing the second head.

It is hardly necessary to define what is meant by the moral law, summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments. At least that is the view that I am taking of it.

The pious old cobbler said that his business was to serve the Lord, but he cobbled for a living. The journalist is more highly favored. He gets his living for serving the Lord. If he does not render the service he is guilty of breach of trust. Having selected this business, we are presented with almost infinite opportunity for doing good and we are charged with corresponding responsibility which we cannot evade.

Without waiting to point out the path of duty, which is ever plain, or the fields of usefulness, which are all ways in sight, let us mark some of the points where we may be tempted to go astray.

To the newspaper man who holds rigidly to high standard of morality in the conduct of his business material reward is small enough to try his faith, while few and small are the installments of approbation that come to cheer him on his way. The first and only real triumph accorded him by the public which he serves comes on a day when he heads a procession in which he takes no pride and feels no interest. Even those who regard him with affection and in a measure appreciate his worth reserve their words of approval until they can no longer cheer and give all the flowers to decorate his grave. His compensation, though infinitely superior to that of the time server, is in the invisible future.

The man, therefore, who does not regard the moral law as supreme even in practical matters, who is impatient that the dividends declared by an approving conscience are not available in dealing with the payroll, in maintaining pleasant relations with the grocer and in securing such rating by Dun and Bradstreet as will entitle him to get his bills of lading at the postoffice instead of the bank, it may not be surprising if one thus constituted is tempted by rewards that appear more substantial, with settlement that is more prompt, and adopt the maxim, "Business is business" which taken literally, is a truism without meaning, but in the sense usually intended it has a parallel in an expression I once heard from a lady speaking about a member of her family, "Tommy never allowed his religion to interfere with his business." There may be Tommies connected with the press who are friendly with morality as long as it imposes no restrictions upon their business, but with the aid of the great deceiver persuade themselves that morality demands no sacrifice. Their advertising columns are at the service of those who will pay for the space, though it be used in the interest of a business that is demoralizing or positively vicious. Their news and editorial columns may likewise be, in a measure, at the command of those who can contribute valuable influence. They are in business and the answer to the question, "Will it pay?" decides their course.

What readers demand may come to some "as if a man had inquired at the oracle of God." The demands of the reading public must be granted, however it may affect society's attitude toward the moral law. This is business, argues the thrifty publisher, and his sources of revenue must not be taxed with an assessment for the promotion of morality.

The present state of civilization demands that the moral law be revised. The great Lawgiver, forsooth, did not know when he laid down laws for all ages that his creatures would make such progress as to civilize his statutes off the face of the earth. Now we sometimes hear of what seems to be a demand that the laws of eternal wisdom, instead of governing fallen humanity, may be repealed, altered, amended or ignored to conform to the practices and propensities of disobedient subjects.

The rivalry of competitors is an influence powerful enough to seduce some publishers from the conservative ways of strict morality. If I regulate my business in conformity with the moral law I shall be outstripped by the more progressive, if less conscientious, competitor. No remedy has ever been provided for the law breaker taking advantage of the law-abiding, and a legitimate remedy cannot be found in a counter violation of law. The fear of man often brings a snare which turns the newspaper from the path of rectitude. It may be fear of his lunch, his share of his net-proceeds, or it may be a more subtle fear of his pistol. It may be a more subtle consideration for the opinions or expressions of prominent persons

or influential contemporaries. The editorial policy may be hampered by its relation to directors, stockholders or creditors. Then some of those connected with the management of the paper may be engaged in other business, the interests of which dictate excessive produce, or some of them may unwisely seek office and so become subject to embarrassing obligations.

Our influence in the cause of morality may be destroyed or greatly hindered by our own inconsistencies, by failing to practice ourselves the precepts we lay down for others. Do we teach that one's words concerning others should be true and fair and kind? What is the character of our own expressions, and what is in our hearts? If we condemn intemperance and other forms of dissipation, what is our own practice when we visit the city or pleasure resort? If "the boys" would talk, what could they tell? Do we seem to plead in vain for obedience to the sixth commandment? Maybe we would respect the third. Do our exhortations to honesty, as required by the eighth commandment, seem to go unheeded? Possibly we disregard the fourth.

In conclusion, the work of the faithful newspaper is one of toil, and the reward is often not proportionate to the labor bestowed. In holding up by precept and example the standard of morality for which his opportunity makes him responsible, he need not expect the encouragement he deserves. He will be misunderstood and misrepresented; he will be charged with narrow and bigoted and regarded as narrow and puritanical. Nevertheless he will not lose his reward. With courage to defend well founded convictions, with faith in time and faith in eternal justice, let us hold ourselves to a high standard of morality, while we entertain charity for all our fellow men.

SUCCESS OF AN ORPHAN BOY

Sends Christmas Gift Back to Oxford Orphan Asylum.

An Oxford Special to News and Observer says, a happy Christmas was spent by the children at the Orphan Asylum in Oxford. Generous friends made contributions sufficient to give the children a bountiful Christmas tree which was enjoyed Saturday evening in the chapel when the gifts were distributed. A friend of the asylum gave oysters to provide an oyster dinner on Sunday. Monday they enjoyed a Christmas dinner, and on Monday evening the orphans gave an entertainment in the chapel of the asylum. The superintendent and Mrs. Rogers, with the assistance of the teachers and Miss Bemis, and doing all in their power to give the orphans a merry Christmas.

During the first years of the existence of the Oxford Orphan Asylum one of the little boys was employed in the home of the late A. H. Williams as help on the premises. His name is Dewitt Parker, and is well remembered by many of the citizens here as a very responsible youth. He left Oxford quite a number of years ago and has been unheard from for a long time. Yesterday Mrs. Williams received a letter from Mr. Dewitt Parker telling her he had long desired to express to her his gratitude for the great kindness and attention she had bestowed on him when he was employed in the home, and would never forget her sympathy for him as an orphan, and enclosed a check for \$50 dollars, of which \$25 was to buy a Christmas present for her, \$25 to be sent to the Orphan Asylum for a Christmas gift. He wrote that he was now at the head of a large manufacturing business in Georgia and meeting with financial success.—The Robesonian.

The Failure of Athletics.

The Washington Post draws a moral from the defeat of Fitzsimmons by O'Brien, and applies it with much vigor. Fitzsimmons, it says, was in his day easily the best of them all; now, at an age when a man should be in his prime, he is "stale."

"Why," the Post asks, "are professional athletes played out in the very prime of life—used up at forty, or even earlier, while the normal man is just beginning to take on the powers of a physical perfection? Of course, these heroes of the prize ring, the gridiron, and the diamond are praised to heaven, especially by lovely women, in every college town, West Point and Annapolis especially, the solicitous of the fair sex are concentrated on the successful "full back" the chief "swatter," and the prince of fisticuffs. Away back, behind the visible and admitted influences, and more potent than all of them put together, is the adulteration of young females expended on the leg-breakers, the strangers and the assorted toughs who lead in baseball, football, rowing, and so on. Pale scholars, men of brains, initiative, and true gettious come and go without exciting the least applause or sympathy. Any big, sweating, muscular, and stupid barbarian who has just achieved some triumph in the line of muscle and brute endurance will be smothered in the "perfume and flowers" that lightly rain from ladies' hands.

"What points the moral of the situation is the fact that athletic training does for college boys what it has done for Fitz, and that, therefore, we should set up another standard of excellence and worth. Let us pass the question of morality as a result of professional athletics. Discussion of that aspect, might be inadmissible to the columns of a respectable newspaper. But we see that Fitzsimmons is now canceled as an old and worn-out man at 42. What, then, are we to expect of the college heroes who pursue his regime without a spark of his ability?"—Asheville Gazette-News.

Exhumed for an Earring.

(Irish Independent.)
A remarkable development has taken place in the case of the prisoners O'Riordan and O'Driscoll, who are in custody in Tralee on the charge of wilfully murdering Mrs. O'Riordan, a schoolmistress, wife of the first and sister of the second prisoner. The body of Mrs. O'Riordan, which has been exhumed to decide a curious point that has arisen. An ear ring was found on the prisoner O'Driscoll, and O'Riordan claimed it as his property. The doctor who made the post mortem examination of the murdered woman could not say for certain whether there were two earrings or only one on the body. To settle the point the body was exhumed, and on examination it was found that one earring was missing.

Girls, if you want red lips, laughing eyes, sweet breath and good looks use Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. The greater beautifier known 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. R. R. Bellamy.

HOW APART THE DUKE

Will Manchester Join Reception to Longworths—At the Wedding of the Sister of President's Future Son-in-Law in Cincinnati the Englishman Felt Slighted—The Ohio Representative Expressed Intention of Punishing the Briton's Nose.

Will the Duke and Duchess of Manchester participate in any of the social affairs when Representative Longworth takes his bride to England?

The sequel to the query is that the future son-in-law of the President a few years ago apprised the duke of his intention to punish his nasal organ, but since that time circumstances have favored the duke, and he has not met the athletic Representative.

The circumstance which brought about the incident occurred in this way: At the wedding of Mr. Longworth's sister to the Viscount Charles de Chambrun, which was a notable society event of Cincinnati, the Duke and Duchess of Manchester were among the guests. The latter being Miss Zimmerman, daughter of the railway magnate.

During the reception following the wedding the duke observed the bride's table, and asked if he and the duchess were to be seated at that table. His highness immediately started a disturbance when told it was the American custom to have none but the intimate friends and wedding party at the bride's table.

Manchester violently protested, and asserted that by reason of rank he and the duchess were entitled to the highest honors, and he persistently refused to be pacified with the explanation offered.

The reproaches of the duke became so objectionable to the guests that Mr. Longworth was asked to settle the embarrassing dilemma.

With all the persuasiveness and urbanity for which the Ohio statesman is noted, he told the duke of the proprieties which precedent required to be observed, and that it would be impossible to make a rearrangement of the guests at the bride's table. However, Manchester remained obdurate, and indicated his intention of abruptly leaving the reception.

At this juncture Mr. Longworth told the duke that if the arrangements did not conform to his conception, both he and the duchess were at liberty to leave without fear of incurring the displeasure of any member of the wedding party. The duke evidently took exception, for the fact remains he and the duchess immediately left the Longworth home in no amiable mood.

Subsequently the duke went to a club and unfolded a story of how he had been wantonly slighted. He said unpleasant things about the Longworth family, and Nicholas Longworth in particular. While he was discharging himself of the trade of criticism a friend communicated with Longworth, informing him of what the duke said.

"You tell him," said Longworth, "that I am too busy with this wedding celebration just now to come to the club, but when my sister and her husband get away I will come around and punch his nose."

The message was delivered, but when Longworth appeared at the club to make good his purpose the duke was not in evidence. He was not seen again around the city, and has avoided Longworth since that time.

The friends of Mr. Longworth are now conjecturing in event of meeting Manchester at any of the social functions abroad during his bridal trip whether he will be willing to treat the incident as closed or renew hostilities.—Washington Post.

But He Did the Talking.

The Greensboro Tar Heel takes an optimistic view of that celebrated interview between the Blackburnites and the President. Everybody, it thinks, will be given a square deal. It says:

"He did the most of the talking. He knows how to talk and is not afraid to talk out loud. He talks well and is the second man the writer has ever met who can easily hold his own in any circle of the other sex. Hon. C. J. Harris had been selected as spokesman for the delegation, but the President insisted on making both speeches. The writer gently ventured a soft suggestion, but it was engulfed and lost in the dizzy, whirling eddy of the wondrous flow of strenuous speech with which the delegation was favored, and dazed. Mr. Blackburn's little dominating speech was cut off just below the ears, and Wagner's appointment was decided and announced before the Congressman had time to name his man. The President does things—does them quickly—and he can do them without your help. His speech is terse, strong and rapid. His gait is swift in all lines. His transportation is by steam. He never moved behind a North Carolina mule. He would rather scale the heights of a Gettysburg under shot and shell than ti push a plow behind a North Carolina bull up a North Carolina hill. The atmosphere in which he was developed is not akin to our ways or style. He is a bit fast in act and word for the average Tar Hee, but while we lose him on the track, we catch a glimpse on the home stretch and follow him under the wire. He was "de-lighted" and we tried to be. His job is a stupendous one, but he'll do it or die. He is moulded of hot stuff. He differs from a Corliss engine in strength. His power, physical and mental, is unmatched. In public, as in private life, he is perfectly perpendicular. His word is his bond, and every coupon thereof is above par. He gave us Wagner. He will give us more. The delegation was satisfied. He will deal a "Square Deal" to both Rollins and Blackburn. There is but one of his class."—Asheville Gazette-News.

Will Answer to Charge of Murder.
Roanoke, Va., December 29.—After a preliminary hearing in a magistrate's court at Pocahontas, Va., which lasted part of two days, Benjamin Read, was today sent on to the grand jury to answer for the charge of murdering his aged sister, Miss Elizabeth Read, who was found dead in her mountain home near Pocahontas on December 28. The evidence against Read was such that fall was denied.

SPEAKER TO WEAR JEANS

Mr. Cannon Saw Congressman Aiken's Home-Made Suit, Admired It, and Got One Like It for Christmas.

When Speaker Cannon raps the house to order at noon on January 4, he will be attired in a brand-new suit of woolen jeans, the cloth of which was woven by a woman in South Carolina. In striking contrast to the score or more of ready-to-wear hand-me-downs Mr. Cannon will appear sprick and span in his South Carolina suit.

To Representative Aiken, of South Carolina, is Mr. Cannon indebted for his new suit. Mr. Aiken arrived in Washington at the beginning of the present session dressed in a suit of home-made grape jeans, and this suit so took the eye of the speaker that he called Mr. Aiken before the big desk of the house and asked him where he got it, with the remark that it "was the best-looking suit of clothes in the house." He continued to admire the suit more and more, and Mr. Aiken told him that the cloth was woven by an old lady in one of the mountain counties in his state, and Mr. Cannon expressed his wish to obtain one just like it.

Mr. Aiken sat down and wrote the lady, telling her that Mr. Cannon wanted a suit just like the one he was wearing. Her vanity was considerably touched that a man of Mr. Cannon's standing should want to wear a suit of jeans. She set to work to weave enough cloth, and the result was that Mr. Cannon received for his Christmas present a nice new suit of jeans, the exact kind that Mr. Aiken is wearing.—Washington Dispatch.

TO TRY MAINE BISHOP

Indictments Against Dr. Codman and Rector Found Good.

The indictments for criminal libel found against Bishop Robert Codman, of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, and the Rev. Robert W. Plant, of the Episcopal church at Gardiner, by the grand jury of Lincoln county last May, are adjudged to be good and the exceptions and demurrers are overruled in a rescript just handed down by Associate-Justice William P. Whitehouse, of the supreme court of Maine.

In the indictment against Bishop Codman it is alleged that he caused to be read and published a libelous statement that William H. Gardiner, of Camden, had been publicly excommunicated from church by the bishop. The defendant filed a demurrer to the indictment, which was overruled by the presiding judge, and the case went to the law court on exceptions to this ruling. The indictment against Mr. Plant charges him with reading and publishing the letter alleged to have been written by Bishop Codman, stating that Mr. Gardiner had been excommunicated. It is thought that the cases will be tried in January or April.—Augusta (Me.) Dispatch.

Woman Famous in Time of War.
Down at Port Tobacco, southern Maryland, where Colonial customs still prevail and the telephone and telegraph are still almost unknown, there was buried last week Miss Olivia Floyd, famous throughout the south as one of the "runners" of the "underground" railroad.

She became one of the runners in the underground railroad between Washington and Richmond, and although her place was surrounded and searched several times, so sharp was her lookout and so careful her conduct that many of her resources that the federal troops were never able to catch either her dispatches or convoys of merchandise. She conveyed clothes money and letters through the lines from prisoners.

One fugitive entrusted \$30,000 in bank notes to Miss Floyd. She hid the money in the stuffing of a hassock. Federal soldiers frequently searched the house and even sat upon the hassock, ignorant that it contained a fortune. The full amount of this deposit was subsequently returned to the owner.

She assisted many escaped prisoners to pass the line, hiding them in the woods and feeding them until an opportunity for escape occurred, and then passed them across the Potomac. In one of her dreadful experiences her hair turned gray in a single night, and her relatives wondered at this marvelous change.

When colored troops were being enlisted in 1864, some one came to Miss Floyd's home for the purpose of enticing her negroes away. Miss Floyd took the negroes to the county seat, enlisted them and got the bounty.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Not That So Hot Competition.
(Galveston Tribune.)
Senator Foraker was contradicting a certain statement.

"Though this is a firm contradiction," he said, "I want it to be a pleasant and polite one. It is not necessary, when men tell falsehoods, to call them liars and club them over the head. Their error can be pointed out in neater and more graceful ways. For instance, in a small town in Indiana a group of drummers were assembled. They sat in the reading room of the country hotel. On the dimly hotel paper they had finished writing to their firms with the lumpy ink and the rusted pens, which the hotel management provided, and now, with newspaper reading and desultory talk, they whiled away the tedious evening. A young drummer in a red tie took the cigarette from his mouth and said:

"Well, my day's sales here reached \$5,000. Not bad for a small town, eh?"

"An elderly gentleman looked up from his newspaper, and said quietly."

"Not bad at all. It is wonderful what one can sometimes do in these little places. On my first trip here my commissions came to just what you say your sales did."

"The young man reddened.

"This isn't a lying competition," he said gruffly.

"Oh, excuse me," said the other. "I thought it was."

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Let Common Sense Decide

Do you honestly believe, that coffee sold loose (in bulk), exposed to dust, germs and insects, passing through many hands (some of them not over-clean), "blended," you don't know how or by whom, is fit for your use? Of course you don't. But



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White and Red Bliss,
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